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Calgary is growing...

CENSUS
City sees third-largest annual population increase ever



Despite plunging oil prices, Calgary's population increased by 35,721 people in 2015 to stand just shy of 1.231 million, according to the latest census.

That's a 2.99-per-cent increase over last year.

Put another way, it's a net addition of 98 people each and every day for 12 months straight.

No matter how you slice it, Mayor Naheed Nenshi said it shows Calgary has achieved a "critical mass" and a more diversified economy that is no longer so heavily dependent on the price of fossil fuels.

"It's a city that continues to feed on itself and continues to grow," the mayor said Wednesday. "We're not only characterized by the price of oil any more."

Between April 2014 and April 2015 (when the annual civic census is carried out), net migration accounted for 24,909 more people, while

natural increase (births over deaths) accounted for 10,812 more people.

In total, it marks the third-largest population increase in the city's history. The largest increase came last year and the second largest the year before that.

In total, over those three years, the number of people living in Calgary grew by 110,690, a figure Nenshi noted is greater than the entire population of Red Deer, Alberta's third-largest city.

All that growth is continuing to put pressure on Calgary's infrastructure, the mayor added.

"Think of how many schools, how many roads, how many buses, and how much wastewater infrastructure Red Deer has, and understand that we added those people without any of those things," he said.

Calgary's multi-year budget now has built-in annual increases of 4.7 per cent based on inflation and estimated population increases of 25,000 people.

Asked if the higher-than-projected growth would mean an even bigger tax increase when the city debates its budget in the fall, Nenshi said not necessarily.

"We have been remarkably successful in finding savings ... over the course of this year that should allow us to mitigate that," he said.



... AND SO IS THE REST OF ALBERTA

STUDY FINDS 6 OF 10 ALBERTANS ARE OBESE OR OVERWEIGHT
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Local taxi survey shows big jump in ride refusals

TRANSPORTATION

Seven per cent of residents say they were rejected: Survey



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

More than twice as many Calgarians said they had been refused a ride from a cabbie in 2015 compared to the year before, in annual surveys of taxi customer satisfaction.

The latest survey results, presented to the city's Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee Wednesday, showed seven per cent of city residents had experienced a ride refusal this year.

That's up from just three per cent in 2014.

The results echo a concern raised by Coun. Evan Woolley, who said during the Calgary Stampede many drivers wouldn't let people into their cabs before first finding out where they were headed.

Sandy Jenkins, with the consumer advocacy group Voters For Taxis, said it's an ongoing issue.

"I think that it's a problem and it's a problem every Stampede," he said. "When things



Calgary taxis are seen lined up on a downtown street. Seven per cent of surveyed Calgarians say they were refused a ride from a taxi in 2015. METRO FILE

are tough you want the \$50 ride, not the \$5 ride."

Some of the reasons drivers refused fares included intoxication, too much luggage or too many people, and poor weather conditions. But more concerning to Jenkins in the verbatim list of responses were incidents

of refusal based on how short or long a trip was.

Overall, the survey showed city residents taking fewer taxi trips: an average of 14 per year in 2015, compared to 16 per year in 2014.

The survey did find some improvement in customer satis-

faction, overall, but Jenkins said much of that — including things like better dispatch response — was likely a result of fewer calls, because of a slump in total taxi trips.

As Metro reported in June, the first quarter of 2015 saw 170,000 fewer taxi trips com-

“When things are tough you want the \$50 ride, not the \$5 ride.”

Sandy Jenkins,
Voters For Taxis

pared to the first quarter of 2014.

Combined with an increase of 480 drivers on city streets, that translated to a 21 per cent drop in trips per driver.

"Most of the dissatisfaction when it came around taxis is the late-night stuff and availability," said Jeff Garland with Associated Cabs. "The biggest difference today is the economy is one of the triggers, and the other one is there's an extra 126 cars on the road."

The survey, conducted by Leger for the City of Calgary, collected data by random dialing both landline and cell-phones, with a sample size of 600 people, including 400 taxi users.

The margin of error is pegged at plus or minus four percentage points, 19 times out of 20 and plus or minus 4.9 per cent among taxi users.

Jenkins described the survey as informative, but said it should be extended to include tourists, as well as Calgary residents.

RACISM

RCMP to look into rant

The RCMP has launched a formal public complaint into its handling of a case two years ago involving a Calgary cab driver who was the target of an alleged racist assault by a passenger.

Video from a dashboard-mounted camera appeared to show the customer unloading a verbal barrage on driver Sardar Qayum before ripping the camera out and punching it into the man's chest.

The cabbie left the vehicle and later filed a complaint with police, but the Mounties in Airdrie decided not to lay charges after the fare paid for the damage.

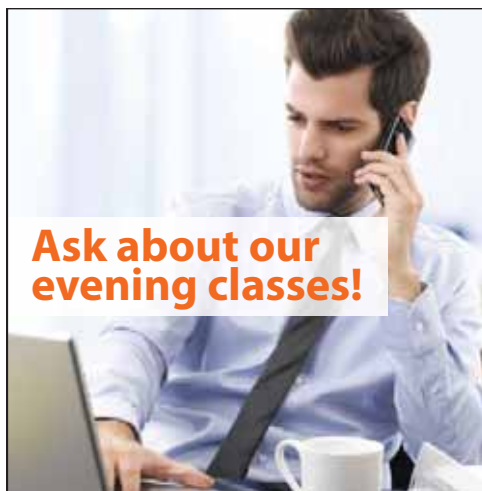
The review involves having an independent, senior, non-commissioned RCMP officer from outside the Airdrie detachment, investigate the file and provide a report on the findings to RCMP senior management.

The findings will be provided to Qayum as well as the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission. Police met with Qayum on Tuesday.

"Based on my meeting with Mr. Qayum, we have initiated the formal Public Complaint Process, which is the best way for him to get the answers he is looking for," said Supt. Tony Hamori, Assistant Southern Alberta District Commander.

"He has also been advised that the RCMP criminal investigation into the alleged assault will be sent to Crown counsel for their review to determine if criminal charges are warranted."

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Albertans pack on the pounds

HEALTH CARE

New report finds six in 10 are overweight or obese



Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Albertans are heavier than the rest of Canadians, according to a report released by the Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA) Wednesday.

The report found nearly six in 10 Albertans are overweight or obese compared with the national average of five out of 10 people being overweight or obese.

Of the 4,424 participants, HQCA estimated the number of overweight and obese Albertans was 35.2 per cent and 23.9 per cent, respectively.

Men aged 45-64 in northern Alberta were more overweight or obese than others in the province.

HQCA's findings don't surprise Dr. Arya Sharma, professor and chair of obesity at the

University of Alberta.

"As a physician, I'm concerned about the fact that many health problems like diabetes and cancer are related to excess weight," he said.

But carrying a few extra pounds doesn't mean you're unhealthy, Sharma noted, saying stigma associated with being overweight or obese can also grow the problem.

As overweight individuals put more pressure on the health-care system, the report said Alberta health should review its programs where primary health providers can engage with Albertans about weight management.

Although much has been done to cut the fat, Sharma said doctors need to hold judge-

ment and treat obesity like other chronic diseases.

"When you have double the excess weight, getting it off and keeping it off pretty much becomes a lifelong problem," he said. "You have to treat it like every other problem that a patient comes with, and you need to spend time figuring out the actual issues underlying the weight gain."

Dream Body personal trainer Paul Anthony said he's seen more overweight clients come for consultations.

The key to maintain a healthy body is a decent diet, water and lunchtime walks, he said.

"People are so busy," he said. "It's become fast-food nation out there."

+ FIT TIPS

Dream Body personal trainer Paul Anthony says:

- Get your daily fix of fruits, veggies and protein
- No fast-food — plan your meals
- Drink water instead of juice or soda to stay awake
- Go for a walk on your

lunch break

- Encourage a buddy to walk with you
- Take a breather from your tech gadgets and go do something
- Change one thing you do one week at a time so you don't get overwhelmed



A new report has found that six in 10 Albertans are considered overweight or obese.

MARCUS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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ANIMALS

Foster dog travels 70 km to Cochrane

It's been a long road home for foster dog Willy.

The Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society (AARCS) says he travelled more than 70 kilometres from his foster home in Coventry Hills NE to an acreage outside of Cochrane.

He went missing three days ago. A timid dog, Willy suffers from epilepsy and is at risk of having seizures.

Volunteers and staff had set up a Facebook search group, handed out posters and knocked on doors to find the dog. Volunteers picked him up

on Tuesday evening after a call was put through to AARCS on their emergency phone.

"It's always really scary when animals go missing from their home," said communications and events manager Lindsay Black, in a release.

"This goes to show you to never give up hope and that miracles truly do happen. Who would've thought that Willy would have travelled so far in such little time?"

Willy was found in a horse stall where he had laid down exhausted from his trek. METRO



Willy the dog had wandered from a northeast Calgary foster home to an acreage west of Calgary. COURTESY AARCS

EMS

Woman clings to life after small fire



Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

Firefighters pulled a woman from a burning apartment in northwest Calgary on Wednesday afternoon and was rushed to hospital with life-threatening injuries.

The woman was found unconscious in a first-floor apartment in the 3700 block of 42nd Street N.W., said fire department spokeswoman Carol Henke. Firefighters immediately carried her out of the building before returning to battle the blaze.

Paramedics treated the woman outside and then transported her to Foothills Medical Centre, "suffering from various serious burns and possible smoke inhalation," said an EMS spokesman.

Her condition was considered life-threatening. There were no other reported injuries.

Henke said the fire appeared to have started in the kitchen and was contained to the apartment of origin.

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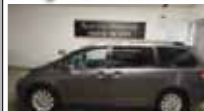


















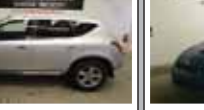









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SAFETY

New beacons expected to reduce crosswalk collisions



Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

Calgary needs more signals at crosswalks to help prevent pedestrian collisions such as that which claimed the life of Farida Abdurahman this week, Mayor Naheed Nenshi said Wednesday, and expanded use of a new type of device should help achieve that.

Rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs) are more effective and less expensive than traditional overhead lights at crosswalks, Nenshi noted, and on Monday city council approved making them a permanent part of Calgary's approach to pedestrian safety.

Previously tested as part of a pilot project, RRFBs will now be included in the city's "warrant system" for crosswalks.

The system is used to determine which crossings get upgrades first, based on "points" awarded for criteria like vehicle volumes, the proximity of schools and nearby transit.

Currently, a crosswalk needs



A rectangular rapid flashing beacon set up on Radcliffe Drive SE. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

a total of 80 points to warrant the installation of traditional overhead lights, which comes at a cost of \$85,000 to \$110,000.

An RRFB setup, by contrast, can cost as little as \$25,000 if the lights are solar powered, but that's not always reliable in all locations. If the beacons draw power from nearby streetlights or a standalone A/C source, the price tag can

increase to as much as \$75,000, according to a city report.

Regardless, the RRFBs are still significantly cheaper than traditional overhead lights, which Nenshi said will mean the city will be able to "signalize a lot more pedestrian intersections going forward, and we'll be able to do them at a lower warrant point than we do now."

Man charged in hit-and-run death

CRIME

Intersection where woman was struck draws scrutiny



Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Calgary police charged a man Wednesday in relation to the fatal hit-and-run of Farida Abdurahman.

Late Monday, Abdurahman was struck by a southbound silver 2000 Buick Regal at a marked crosswalk at Centre Street and 43 Avenue North, according to police.

She was transported to hospital where she later died of her injuries.

Robert Mark Varley, 58, has been charged with hit-and-run causing death.

Through the police investigation of the scene and debris left behind, the car was found on the 6400 block of 4 Street NE a few hours after the crash.

Initially, Varley was evasive when questioned by police, but he later admitted involvement in the collision, said Sgt. Colin Foster, head of the collision reconstruction unit with the Calgary Police Service.

On Tuesday, residents near the collision site told Metro the crosswalk is becoming notorious for pedestrian collisions.

The city said the crosswalk wasn't at the top of its list for collisions or identified trouble spots in Calgary.

Foster said police will speak with the city's roads department to suggest recommendations that could make the intersection safer. He added the crosswalk was lit by street lamps.

Recommendations might include overhead lights, pedestrian-activated lights or remov-



A memorial grew Wednesday where 33-year-old Farida Abdurahman was killed after being struck by a car Monday night. AARON CHATHA/METRO

ing the crosswalk completely, he said, adding the city will do a cost-benefit analysis to see whether those recommendations will be implemented.

He said speed might have been a factor in the collision, adding police can't prove if alcohol was involved.

"He certainly would have known he struck a pedestrian," Foster said. "Whether or not he could see her (before hitting her), that's still under investigation."

"It's a sad collision ... but, by the same token, it's totally preventable.... My expectation from anybody who is involved in a pedestrian collision is they should remain at the scene and render first aid. And that's not the case in this one."

Varley appeared in court Wednesday morning and was released on bail with conditions he doesn't drive a vehicle and adheres to a curfew. He's set to appear in court again on Aug. 6.

PARKS

Free Banff shuttle service on offer over long weekend

Parks Canada will provide free shuttle service from the village of Lake Louise to Moraine Lake in Banff National Park for the expected busy August long weekend.

It will run from Aug. 1 to 3. The shuttle, which has been used during the busy fall season for the past few years, is

expanding service for August to reduce traffic congestion and help visitors have a more enjoyable experience when visiting Moraine Lake.

You can catch the shuttle from the Lake Louise overflow parking lot, about 5.5 kilometres east of Lake Louise and 50 kilometres west of Banff

off the Trans-Canada highway.

The shuttle leaves every 20 minutes from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will depart from Moraine Lake from 10 a.m. to 5:40 p.m.

Parks Canada hopes people come out to check out the country's national parks this summer.

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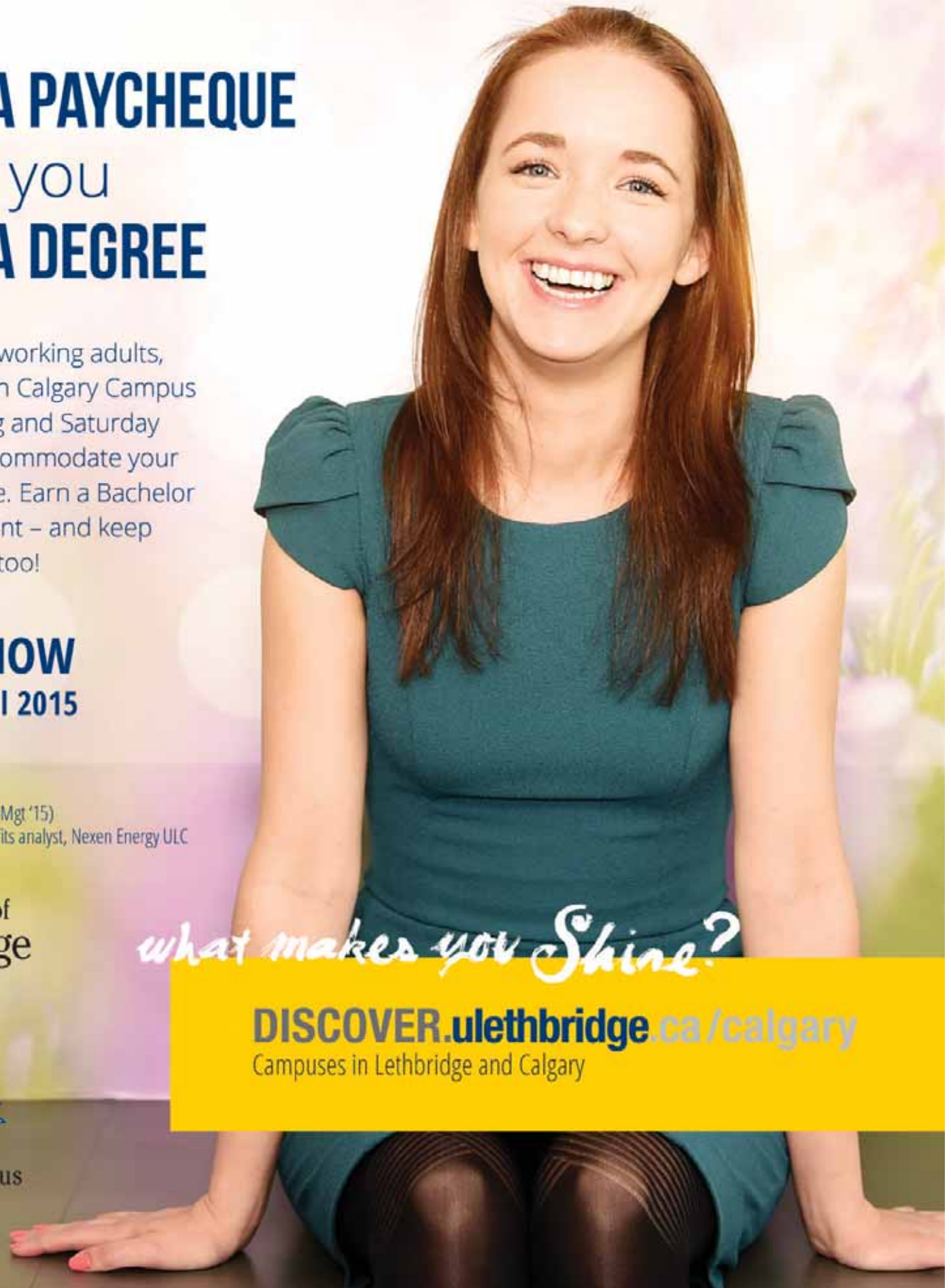
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IN BRIEF**One in hospital after Barrier Lake rescue**

One man was rushed to hospital after EMS from Kananaskis and Canmore found him and a missing woman in Barrier Lake late Tuesday evening.

According to EMS, an uninjured man who was part of the three-person group said the woman was last seen in a paddle boat/canoe while the man was in the water assisting her at 8:30 p.m.

Conservation officers immediately entered Barrier Lake to locate the individuals. At 9:30 p.m. They found them on the shore at different parts of the lake.

The female was uninjured, but the man was found semi-conscious at the time and was ferried to waiting paramedics.

The man — believed to be in his 50s — was rushed by ground ambulance to the Foothills Medical Centre in potentially life-threatening condition. **METRO**

Man charged in connection with three bank robberies

The Calgary police have charged a 26-year-old man in relation to three separate bank robberies occurring in June and July 2015.

In each of the three robberies, the suspect entered the bank and gave a robbery note, receiving an undisclosed amount of cash before he fled the locations.

On Thursday, Jesse David Robins was arrested without incident and is charged with three counts of robbery.

The robberies were on June 25 at the BMO in the 2500 block of 32 Street NE, July 3 at the Scotia bank in the 200 block of 61 Avenue SW and July 6 at the ATB in the 3600 block of Brentwood Road NW. **METRO**



Wet, heavy snow fell on leafy branches across Calgary in September 2014, downing hundreds of thousands of branches throughout the city. METRO FILE

'Snowtember' claim denied, mayor miffed

DAMAGE

Program funds 'extraordinary disasters', not heavy snowfalls



Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

Calgary's application for \$27 million in disaster funding, related to damage from the September 2014 snowstorm, has been denied by the Alberta government, a move Mayor Naheed Nenshi lambasted Wednesday as "unbelievable."

Nenshi said Municipal Affairs Minister Deron Bilous called him ahead of time to inform him the application would be denied — despite a recommendation for approval by the Alberta Emergency Management Agency — and the city received the official letter Wednesday morning.

"The challenges created by changing weather patterns has certainly tested many communities during the last few years," Nenshi said, reading from the letter. "As you are no doubt aware, unseasonal snow events are not extraordinary occurrences in Alberta, even when they cause the kinds of effects seen in September of last year."

The mayor was noticeably



We have a New Democrat government saying, 'Meh, climate change is someone else's problem.'

Mayor Naheed Nenshi

upset.

"Basically what we have is, we have a New Democrat government saying, 'Meh, climate change is someone else's problem,'" Nenshi said. "We're not going to deal with this. We're going to have the lowly muni-

cipal taxpayer deal with it," Nenshi said.

Bilous said he understands Nenshi's "disappointment" but stood by the government's decision on the basis that the Disaster Recovery Program is intended to cover "uninsurable losses from extraordinary disasters, such as the 2013 floods," not heavy snowfalls.

"Municipalities are responsible for operational costs related to weather, and many, including Calgary, have healthy reserve funds to handle weather events like this one," the minister said in a statement emailed to Metro.

"Albertans expect their government to be responsible with their tax dollars."

U O F C

3D tech may save record of historic fort

A historic fort threatened by melting permafrost in one of the most remote locations on Earth might be preserved thanks to 3D technology.

Fort Conger on Ellesmere Island was established in 1875 by British explorers looking for the North Pole.

It also served as scientific headquarters for the ill-fated Lady Franklin Bay expedition and was used by U.S. polar explorer Robert Peary in his quest for the North Pole.

"Melting permafrost is causing the surface area to sink and erode and that's damaging the wooden buildings," said Peter Dawson, a University of Calgary archeology professor.

"A lot of these historical sites in the Arctic are actually being impacted by the effects of climate change," he said.

"We were finding the depletion of sea ice was creating storm surges which were flooding some sites like Herschel Island and there's a large turn-of-the-century ... whaling settlement which has been flooded several times in the last 10 years."

Dawson used a borrowed 3D digital scanner to record every building, rock and artifact at Fort Conger in 2010.

He intends to do the same thing next year with his own scanner after receiving a grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation.

The scanner, about the size of a lunch box, sits on a tripod, rotates 360 degrees and emits beams of laser light millions of times a minute. It measures how long it takes the beams to strike the surface of a building or artifact and return to the scanner.

"We created a scan of the entire site — an area of about 32,000 square metres — and captured all of the standing structures and building foundations and artifacts. We now have basically a very accurate three-dimensional map and model of the site as it appeared at that time," Dawson said.

By re-scanning next year, he will be able to record any additional damage and, if necessary, mitigation work can be done.

Damage from melting permafrost is just one of several risks as Arctic ice opens up and allows more adventure tour companies to operate in the region. That leads to more people wandering over deteriorating sites.

"You can get 40 or 50 passengers disembarking at a time and wandering around and it's very difficult to monitor the impact these visitors are having," said Dawson.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

COUNTRY MUSIC

Keith Urban surprises Alberta studio owner, lays down tracks



Andrea Ross
Metro | Edmonton

An Edmonton music producer had a "once in a lifetime" opportunity last week when country music superstar Keith Urban stopped by his studio to record six songs for an upcoming album.

Sound Extractor studio owner Stew Kirkwood got a call

from the Warner Bros. record label shortly before the four-time Grammy Award winner's July 22 K-Days performance.

"They said an unnamed big star was going to be in town and wanted to come in and record and lay down some tracks for an upcoming album," he said. "The record label thought that the credentials the studio had and that I had were up to snuff for his needs."

Urban and his band stopped

by Kirkwood's west-end studio on July 23. They spent nine hours recording some intro music for Urban's live shows as well as some tracks for his upcoming album, which Kirkwood said is in its "infancy."

"He was a fantastic guy. There was no ego, just real straightforward, really nice, very accommodating," Kirkwood said. "He said he'd like to record here again. Couldn't ask for a better day, really."



Sound Extractor studio owner Stew Kirkwood poses in his studio with country music superstar Keith Urban.

COURTESY STEW KIRKWOOD

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Representatives from the families of 10 Tsuu T'ina chiefs broke ground the site of the new All Chiefs Sportsplex. AARON CHATHA/METRO

Tsuu T'ina await new sports venue

RECREATION

Two new rinks mean more ice time for everyone



Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Work has begun on the new Tsuu T'ina Nation All Chiefs Sportsplex and Jim Starlight Community Hall.

The first phase of the \$48-million dollar project will see two new ice arenas built with estimated completion goal 18 months.

Officials said the arenas will be also be available to Calgary teams in much need of ice time.

"It's a great bridge between the communities," said Tsuu T'ina Spokesperson Kevin Littlelight.

"A lot of our kids play with

the Calgary teams. It's quite the catalyst to keep us going and it's a partnership with Calgarians to keep our sports spirit going."

The new arena will replace the Seven Chiefs arena, which was closed to make way for the ring road last year. The Seven Chiefs arena operated for 40 years and is now being prepped for demolition.

In the interim, Tsuu T'ina teams have been co-operating with Calgary rinks to find ice time for their players.

Tsuu T'ina Councillor Dean Manywounds said the nation has a proud history of athleticism.

"It gives us the strength together to go and move forward. And that started a long time ago when we were those feared warriors. That came from athleticism."

The addition of the sportsplex arenas could help alleviate the pressure felt on Calgary ice rinks during peak times.

Kevin Kobelka, executive

“

It's quite the catalyst to keep us going and it's a partnership with Calgarians to keep our sports spirit going.

Kevin Littlelight

director of Hockey Calgary, says he hasn't communicated with the Tsuu T'ina Nation directly on usage of the arenas, but in the big picture, it will certainly help.

"We have a shortage of ice time in the prime time slots between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. on weekdays and we definitely need more," he said. "We'd love to get more access."

Future phases are planned as part of the project to expand the sportsplex with additional facilities.



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SEE THINGS



DIFFERENTLY

TIM COLDWELL

Vice President, Origination
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Scotty Charles (left) and Jared Lagasse will be shaving their heads at the Palomino Smokehouse on Aug. 9 for dueling Charities. JENNIFER FRIESEN FOR METRO

CHARITY

Hair today, gone tomorrow

What started as a late-night joke over a few beers has become a charity challenge for two long-haired employees at Calgary's Palomino Smokehouse.

After basking in the head-banging glory of his long hair for 14 years, bartender Scotty Charles slipped one passing thought of, "You know, I think I'm going to cut my hair," to his manager, Jared Lagasse.

Lagasse hadn't cut his hair in more than five years himself, and the thought spawned a duel.

"After a couple of beers we say some bold things, so I said

we should make it into a fundraiser," said Lagasse. "With the kind of alternative lifestyles we live, I feel like this is a side of the city charities don't always get funding from, so why not add a spin to it and have some fun?"

At 2 p.m. on Aug. 9, the two will hold a silent auction at the Palomino, and then shearing their heads in the name of two different charities.

Charles has already raised more than \$1,000 for his choice, Brain Canada, after watching his family struggle through brain diseases including Alzheimer's and dementia.

"I grew up seeing how much affects the entire family," said Charles. "Growing up, I watched my mother go through it and now I'm going through it with my grandma on my dad's side ... so it's really important to me."

Lagasse will be donating his earnings to Kids Cancer Care in Calgary, noting that cancer is "an awful thing to go through for these kids."

Their hair will then be donated to Angel Hair For Kids and turned into wigs for Canadian children who have lost their hair due to medical conditions. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

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STUDY

Youth troubled by social media



Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

A new study of Ottawa middle and high school students shows that frequent use of social networking sites is associated with poor mental health among children and adolescents.

The Ottawa Public Health study shows that youth who report using sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for more than two hours a day also reported poor mental health, psychological distress, suicidal thoughts or an unmet need for mental-health support.

"Parents should consider frequent use of SNSs (social networking sites) as a possible indicator of, or risk for, mental health problems among children," the study said.

The study examined responses from 753 Ottawa students to the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey in 2013.

Lead study author Dr. Hugues Sampasa-Kanyinga said there has been some investigation of the effects of social networking on university-aged students, but little was known about its association with middle and high school students.

The study doesn't establish causality; mental health problems could be caused by a high use of social networking sites or vice versa, or both. Sampasa-Kanyinga said more study is needed to disentangle the relationship between social networking sites and mental health among children and adolescents.

Tories seek free-trade deal before campaign kickoff

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

Harper poised to sign off on international blockbuster

The Conservatives are anxiously hoping to sign off on a massive free-trade deal before kicking off an election campaign that's expected to start as early as Sunday.

CBC reported that Prime Minister Stephen Harper will head to Rideau Hall in Ottawa on Sunday or Monday to ask Gov. Gen. David Johnston to dissolve Parliament to call a federal election as early as Aug. 2.

The federal government is at the negotiating table in Hawaii, where Trans-Pacific Partnership talks are reportedly in their final stages.

With voting day set for Oct. 19, the governing Tories want to launch the campaign with the deal in hand — an agreement they could brandish as evidence of their economic stewardship.

The partnership, a pact between 12 countries including Canada, the U.S., Mexico and



Prime Minister Stephen Harper steps out of his residence at 24 Sussex Drive in Ottawa in June. He's expected to call a federal election as early as Sunday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Japan, is poised to become the biggest trade deal in history once ratified.

Experts say if the talks continue after the start of the campaign, they could prove politically sensitive for the government.

In particular, Canada is

under pressure from other countries to lower the high tariffs that currently protect domestic producers of eggs, milk, cheese and poultry from foreign competition.

In an interview with Bloomberg, Harper is insisting the government will

“Canada cannot be left out of this kind of trade arrangement.”

Prime Minister Stephen Harper

protect the interests of every Canadian industry “as best we can.”

Harper says the negotiations are “well advanced” and that Canada “cannot be left out of this kind of trade arrangement.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS/METRO

NEW ZEALAND

Hundreds mourn avalanche victims from Montreal

Two Montrealers who died in an avalanche while hiking in New Zealand were remembered on Wednesday as avid outdoorsmen as well as students who were talented, creative and involved.

New Zealand police con-

firmed that the two bodies found in debris near a popular hiking track were those of Louis-Vincent Lessard and Etienne Lemieux, who were both Université de Montreal industrial design students.

“They were marked by an

overwhelming enthusiasm and infectious good mood,” Fabienne Munch, the faculty of design's director, said in a statement published on the university's website.

“The school of design, its professors and class-

room staff will remember their commitment and their charming smiles.”

On Facebook, a page that was set up to help locate the 23-year-old students when they went missing turned into a memorial with hun-

dreds of messages of condolence.

The families of both men acknowledged and thanked authorities for their attempts at finding the hikers on the New Zealand police website.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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From left, family members Audrey DuBose, Aubrey DuBose, Cleishawn DuBose and Terina Allen listen as their attorney Mark O'Mara, left, speaks to the media after murder and manslaughter charges against University of Cincinnati police officer Ray Tensing were announced for the shooting death of Samuel DuBose, on Wednesday, in Cincinnati. JOHN MINCHILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. officer faces murder charges

CINCINNATI

Race might be factor in traffic stop shooting investigation

A University of Cincinnati police officer who shot a motorist during a traffic stop over a missing front licence plate has been indicted on murder charges, a prosecutor said Wednesday, adding that the officer "purposely killed him."

Prosecutor Joe Deters announced the grand jury indictment at a news conference to discuss developments in the investigation into the July 19 shooting of 43-year-old motorist Samuel DuBose by officer Ray Tensing.

DuBose's death comes amid months of national scrutiny of police dealings with African-Americans, especially those killed by officers. DuBose was black. Tensing is white. Authorities haven't indicated whether race was a part of the investigation.

Authorities have said Tensing spotted the car driven by DuBose and missing the front licence plate, which is required by Ohio law. They say Tensing stopped the car and a struggle

ensued after DuBose refused to provide a driver's licence and get out of the car.

Tensing has said he was dragged by the car and forced to shoot at DuBose. He fired one shot, striking DuBose in the head.

But Deters dismissed Tensing's claim that he was dragged by the car and suggested that he shouldn't have pulled DuBose over to begin with.

"He fell backward after he shot (DuBose) in the head," Deters said.

A warrant was issued for Tensing's arrest. Deters said Tensing could either turn himself in or officers could arrest him.

Tensing's attorney, Stewart Mathews, didn't immediately return phone messages seeking comment after Deters' announcement.

Mathews said earlier Wednesday that he thought an indictment was likely "given the political climate" and comments made by city officials. But Mathews said given the evidence he's seen, he doesn't believe there should be an indictment.

Body-camera video of the

shooting was also released Wednesday. DuBose's family had been pressing for its release, and news organizations including The Associated Press had sued Deters to get it released under Ohio open records law, but Deters released it before any ruling had been made.

Deters called the shooting "senseless" and "asinine."

"He purposely killed him," Deters said. "He should never have been a police officer."

The prosecutor also said he thought it was time to reconsider the university police department's role.

"I don't think a university should be in the policing business," Deters said.

A message for comment was left Wednesday with the police department. The university said earlier this week it plans an independent review of its police department's policies.

The University of Cincinnati on Wednesday closed its main campus in anticipation of grand jury action in the case.

If convicted, Tensing could face as much as life in prison.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



He purposely killed him. He should never have been a police officer. Prosecutor Joe Deters

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NEW MEXICO

Dispatcher resigns after panicked call

A teenager who called police but was told by a dispatcher to "deal with it yourself" before being hung up on said Wednesday she was panicked about a friend being shot, but stayed as calm as possible.

Seventeen-year-old Esperanza Quintero told The Associated Press that she wished dispatcher Matthew Sanchez had done more to help after her friend Jaydon Chavez-Silver was shot in June. He later died.

"I don't understand how much more I could have stayed calm," Quintero said. "It was upsetting at the time but I didn't have a choice. What more could I have done?"

Quintero told KOAT-TV in Albuquerque that she tried to stop the 17-year-old Chavez-Silver from bleeding and gave him CPR.

In the recording, Quintero snaps at Sanchez for repeatedly asking whether Chavez-Silver is breathing.

“I don't understand how much more I could have stayed calm.”
Esperanza Quintero

Sanchez resigned Tuesday, a day after the recording of the call was released.
Fire Department spokes-

woman Melissa Romero said Sanchez had dispatched an ambulance to the scene before he hung up and that it arrived less than five minutes after it was sent.

Sanchez was employed by the department for 10 years and was a firefighter before being assigned to a dispatcher job. It was unclear why the change was made or if he had any previous disciplinary actions against him.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A woman writes on a sign outside Dr. Walter James Palmer's dental office in Bloomington, Minn., Wednesday. Palmer reportedly paid \$50,000 to track and kill a black-maned lion, just outside Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe.

ANN HEISENFELT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Guide faces prison term

ZIMBABWE

Luring lion into kill zone deemed illegal, unethical

A hunting guide and a farm owner appeared in court Wednesday on allegations they helped an American dentist kill a protected lion named Cecil, and the head of Zimbabwe's safari association said the big cat was unethically lured into the kill zone and denied "a chance of a fair chase."

The Zimbabwean men were accused of aiding Walter James Palmer, who reportedly paid \$50,000 to track and kill the black-maned lion. Zimbabwe police have said they are looking for Palmer, whose exact whereabouts were unknown.

During the nighttime hunt, the men tied a dead animal to their car to draw the lion out of a national park, said Johnny Rodrigues, chairman of the Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force.

The American is believed to have shot it with a crossbow, injuring the cat. The wounded lion was tracked for 40 hours before Palmer fatally shot it with a gun, Rodrigues said.

A professional hunter named Theo Bronkhorst was accused of failing to "prevent an unlawful hunt." Court documents say Bronkhorst was supervising while Palmer shot the animal.

Bronkhorst was released on \$1,000 bail after appearing at the Hwange magistrate's court, about 700 kilometres west of the capital Harare, according

to his defence lawyer, Givemore Muvhiringi.

If convicted, Bronkhorst faces up to 15 years in prison.

A second man, farm owner Honest Trymore Ndlovu, also appeared in court but was not charged and was released from custody.

Using bait to lure the lion is deemed unethical by the Safari Operators Association of Zimbabwe, of which Bronkhorst is a member. The association has since revoked his licence.

Palmer remained secluded Wednesday in the face of protests at his clinic and the online furor.

According to U.S. court records, Palmer pleaded guilty in 2008 to making false statements to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about a black bear he fatally shot in Wisconsin. Palmer had a permit to hunt but shot the animal outside the authorized zone in 2006, then tried to pass it off as being killed elsewhere, according to court documents. He was given one year probation and fined nearly \$3,000.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ PALMER

U.S. lion hunter has Alberta connection

There appears to be a Canadian connection to a U.S. hunter at the centre of a social media storm for killing a protected lion in Africa. The Bowhunting Records of Alberta list a person named Walter Palmer who legally killed a mule deer in the province in October 2006.

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World economy fragile: IMF

FINANCE

Chief says global markets are recovering but face risks

International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Christine Lagarde says the world economy is recovering, but fragile, and "faces some downside risks."

In an online news conference Wednesday, Lagarde described the United States as "a strong performer" and China as "resilient" despite a recent drop in Chinese stock prices.

She also expressed optimism for the 19 countries that use the euro. The IMF expects the eurozone economy to grow 1.5 per cent this year and 1.7 per cent in 2016; it expanded just 0.8 per cent in 2014.

"The euro area is beginning to turn the corner.... We have a more upbeat forecast than we have in a long time," she said.

Lagarde called again for Greece's creditors to reduce its debt burden. She said Greece needs to enact reforms that will make its economy more efficient and expressed confidence that the IMF can work with Greece's left-wing government, which has criticized IMF policies.

"There are lots of things that you say (in politics)," she said. "What matters at the end of the day is what you do."

Lagarde noted that a drop in worldwide commodity prices is likely to hurt emerging market economies. And the global economy could face fallout if the Federal Reserve raises short-term U.S. interest



IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde speaks during a news conference after the IMFC in April. On Wednesday, Lagarde described the U.S. as a strong economic performer, and predicted growth in China and the European Union.

JOSE LUIS MAGANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The euro area is beginning to turn the corner. We have a more upbeat forecast than we have (had) in a long time.

IMF Chief Christine Lagarde

rates, which it has kept near zero since late 2008. Fed Chair Janet Yellen has said a rate

increase is likely this year. Lagarde has urged the Fed to delay the rate hike until 2016,

citing the global economy's fragility.

The IMF managing director said Japan's attempts to boost its economy through easy money policies, government spending and economic reforms — an effort called "Abenomics" after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe — "is turning out to be positive."

Lagarde shrugged off a recent selloff in Chinese stocks, noting that China's shares are still 80 per cent higher than they were a year ago.

The IMF expects Chinese economy to grow 6.8 per cent this year, fast by global standards but the slowest for China since 1990.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REAL ESTATE

Breaking Bad home being sold for \$1.6M

Two houses featured on the hit AMC-TV series Breaking Bad are up for sale in Albuquerque.

A mother-daughter realty team said this week they are helping sell the home where the fictitious Jesse Pinkman made methamphetamine on the hit show.

The house in Albuquerque's Country Club area is listed for \$1.6 million.

Susan C. Feil and Alicia Feil Peterson of Coldwell Banker Legacy also listed another house that appeared in the series finale in Albuquerque's North Valley.

The sales team created a website to promote the houses, which includes the caveat "Meth lab not included."

Breaking Bad follows former high school teacher Walter White, played by Bryan Cranston, producing methamphetamine with a former student, Jesse Pinkman, played by Aaron Paul. The series ended in 2013.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Aaron Paul

DOUG HYUN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Yahoo Livetext app aims to make video chat private

Yahoo hopes to make private video calls a reality with Livetext, a new app that makes video calling as private as texting. The app will be released Thursday in the U.S., Canada, Germany, France and the U.K. on Apple and Android devices.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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VERTICALSCOPE

Torstar buys 56% majority stake in digital media firm

Torstar Corp. is tapping into the world of niche online forums by picking up a stake in VerticalScope Holdings Inc., a Canadian company that serves the appetites of car fanatics and offers tips to pet lovers.

The publisher of the Toronto Star, which ditched its Harlequin romance novel business last year for \$455 million, is spending \$200 million for a 56 per cent stake in the digital media company.

"We've been assessing opportunities to employ capital that resulted from the Harlequin sale for over a year now," chief executive David Holland told analysts on Wednesday as

The investment in the business provides Torstar exposure to the U.S. economy.

Torstar CEO David Holland

Torstar reported a quarterly loss.

"It's an important step forward in the transformation of Torstar, positioning the company for growth in its more digitally oriented future."

Torstar was hit by another quarter where the downturn of

print advertising revenue overshadowed its efforts to reduce costs across the operations. The company reported a loss attributable to shareholders of \$1.1 million or a penny per share for the quarter ending June 30, compared with a profit of \$19.7 million a year ago.

Operating revenue fell to \$206.3 million from \$225.6 million.

VerticalScope could offer relief from some of the troubles with its more than 600 consumer enthusiast online forums and premium content sites.

VerticalScope is based in Toronto and has about 130 employees. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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URBAN ETIQUETTE: ELLEN VANSTONE ON PEEING IN PUBLIC



THE QUESTION

In my country, men's urinals have privacy barriers, but in Canada there are none and I suffer performance anxiety in the washroom. What is your advice?

Dear Ellen,

In my country, men's urinals have privacy barriers, but in Canada, there are none and I suffer performance anxiety in the washroom when I'm trying to urinate. What is your advice?

F.X.

Dear F.X.

I am not familiar with the etiquette of men's washrooms, so I've never heard of this problem. I can tell you that many women are irritated by the lack of stalls in many public venues, which means we have to spend most of our time during intermissions at movies and concerts, and between innings or quarters at sporting events, lining up to wait for a stall — but at least we do have privacy when we finally get into one. So I heartily sympathize with your problem.

I have consulted a male friend from L.A. about this, and he says he's had the same problem. According to him, most washrooms in the U.S. have privacy barriers, except for the urinal at Dodger Stadium, which he describes as basically a "trough."

But when he's in Canada, even when his bladder is bursting, he can't "go" when there are men on either side of him. The thought that they are "checking him out" when he's trying to relieve himself makes it impossible for him to proceed with the business at hand.

His solution is to take out his phone and read his emails, which takes his mind off the men to his left and right. Then he's fine to do what he needs to do. I'm not sure this would work for everyone, but I'm not sure what else to suggest. If other male readers have encoun-

That's a nice, hefty stream
you've got going my friend!

Thank you Neighbour.
It's all in the breathing!



Ani Castillo

tered this problem and have any suggestions, I'd love to hear them.

While we're on the topic, I may as well put in a word about the stupidity of equipping public washrooms with cheap toilet paper. Just the other day, I was in a ladies' room where another woman was in a stall, cursing and hurling small bits of toilet paper on the floor, because it kept ripping off in little pieces every time she tried to pull off a few squares from the humungous but unmovable role of tissue in the dispenser.

I commiserated with her, and we discussed what a perfect example this was of false economy. Presumably the management bought cheap

toilet paper to save money, but since management types are not the people who have to pick up millions of little bits of toilet paper off the floor, perhaps they don't realize how much is wasted.

As for women who "hover" over the toilet seat in order to avoid touching it, fair enough. But if you're going to spray all over the seat, it's only polite to wipe it afterwards, in consideration of the next person.

And I hope I don't have to tell anyone, male or female, to wash their hands afterward, right?

Need advice?
Email Ellen
scene@metronews.ca

THE MICROTREND: One more blow to Ebola



Though Ebola hysteria has blown over, the West African outbreak still has not. But this week saw some good news: The World Health Organization reported only seven new infections, the lowest in more than a year. But don't schedule a goodbye party just yet — the WHO was careful to say about 2,000 people who have been exposed to Ebola in the last 21 days are still walking around in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone — the crisis could reignite any time. SOURCE: WHO

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Here's hoping we're seeing changes to the military's culture

This is it.

Canada's military leadership has the chance to prove that it will spare no one in the fight to rid the forces of sexual misconduct.

The signs so far are hopeful. A high ranking, "up-and-coming" officer — Lt.-Col. Mason Stalker — is facing 10 sex-related charges after a male victim came forward to military police in April.

The allegations stem from Stalker's time as a cadet volunteer in Edmonton between 1998 and 2007.

Stalker will be tried in civilian court and that, says lawyer Michel Drapeau, is a significant move, given the military typically tries the cases internally. Drapeau, who has represented military sexual assault victims, said he now expects civilian trials will be the norm. (A Canadian Forces spokeswoman said military investigators will make that decision on a case-by-case basis). Civilian trials would be a critical improvement, given widespread condemnation of the military's handling of sexual-misconduct allegations, as detailed in the damning report by retired Supreme Court Justice Marie Deschamps, released earlier this year.

The Deschamps report identified a shocking lack of justice amid a culture of "endemic" sexual misconduct — a culture vividly illustrated by former chief of defence staff

Gen. Tom Lawson last month when he blamed the problem on biological wiring.

Despite the fact civilian courts have taken over Stalker's case, the military is — rightly — continuing to investigate. So I hope it will answer a few pressing questions for me: Did others in the military know about the alleged assaults? If so, what did they do with that information?

The military will be judged not just for catching a single big fish, but also by its efforts to smoke out low-level players — those who witnessed, overheard, or otherwise knew about allegations — and punish them.

There will be no cleansing of the military's sexually-poisoned culture until it targets those who look the other way.

Last week, the new top soldier, Gen. Jonathan Vance, foreshadowed the Stalker charges, promising "changes and announcements in the near future" to show he's serious about tackling sexual assault.

I expect, then, not to wait much longer for the results of an ongoing military investigation into an alleged sexual assault at the prestigious Royal Military College in Kingston, Ont., which has already taken more than two months.

Here's hoping we're seeing the beginning of deep changes. They can't come quickly enough.

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PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan

TOMORROW IS
ALWAYS FRESH,
WITH NO MISTAKES
IN IT YET.



[illegible]

BROKEN PROMISE — AN EXCERPT IN FOUR PARTS BY LINWOOD BARCLAY

BILL TAYLOR

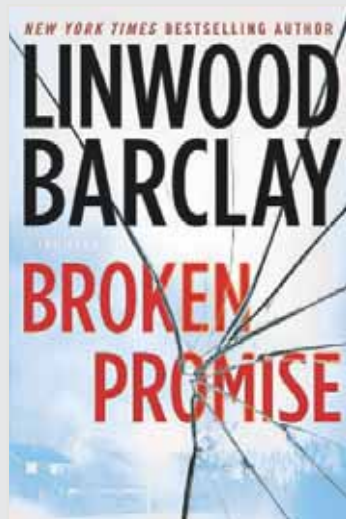
PART 4 OF 4**Something dark has**

infected Promise Falls
Bestselling thriller author Linwood Barclay returns this month with *Broken Promise* (Doubleday, July 28, \$22.95) the first book in an explosive new trilogy.

Yesterday, we left David trying to find out how his cousin Marla ended up with a baby who clearly isn't her own. The more David listens to Marla's story of a stranger giving her the baby, the more concerned he becomes.

Excerpted from *Broken Promise* by Linwood Barclay. Copyright © 2015 Linwood Barclay. Published by Doubleday Canada, a division of Penguin Random House Canada Limited, a Penguin Random House Company. Reproduced by arrangement with the Publisher. All rights reserved.

I checked out the stroller. It was in the folded position. On the right handle were more bloody smudges that looked like the one I'd seen on the doorjamb



"We need to know who bore this child," I told Marla. "Like, medical history. You need to know about his real mother and father, what diseases or conditions they might have."

"Why don't you want me to be happy, David?" Marla asked. "Don't you think, after all I've been through, I deserve some happiness?"

I didn't know what to say, but it turned out I didn't have

to come up with something. Marla said, "I'm going to freshen up. Now that you're here, I can have a shower, put on some clean clothes. I was thinking Matthew and I would go out and get a few things."

"The stroller, behind the door," I said. "Did you buy that yesterday?"

"No, the angel brought that," she said, and slipped into the bathroom and closed the door.

I checked out the stroller. It was in the folded position. On the right handle were more bloody smudges that looked like the one I'd seen on the doorjamb.

I opened up the contraption and found stale, dry Cheerios, three rattles, a small wooden car with thick wooden wheels, and a flyer for a store that sold baby supplies. On the flyer was an address for Rosemary

Gaynor, of 375 Breckonwood Drive.

I got out my cell, tapped on the app that would allow me to find a number for the Gaynor household. But once I had it under my thumb, I considered whether making the call was the smartest thing to do.

Maybe it made more sense to go over there. Right now. I heard water running in the bathroom. The shower. The phone still in my hand, I called home.

It picked up on the first ring. "Yeah?"

"Dad, I need to talk to Mom."

"What's up?"

"Just put her on."

A fumbling sound, a muted "He wants to talk to you." And then: "What is it, David?"

"Something's happened here at Marla's Mom, there's a baby here."

"What?"

"She's got a baby. She says it's hers. She says some woman came to the door and just gave it to her. But the story, it's just not holding water. Mom, I'm starting to wonder ... I hate to say this, but I'm wondering — God, this sounds totally crazy — but I'm wondering if she snatched this kid from someone."

"Oh, no," Mom said. "Not again."

HARPER LEE BESTSELLER**Watchman sales drop**

Sales dropped sharply for Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman* in its second week of publication. But it remained the bestselling book in the United States for the week ending July 26, according to Nielsen BookScan. On Wednesday, Nielsen reported sales of 220,000 for *Watchman*, less than a third of Nielsen's total for the novel's first week on sale.

Publisher HarperCollins announced last week that *Watchman* panned by many critics, had already sold around 1.1 million copies in North America alone.

1.1M

The number of copies of *Go Set a Watchman* already sold in North America

The total includes ebooks, audiobooks and pre-orders for *Watchman*.

which topped bestseller lists soon after HarperCollins revealed in February that a second novel was coming from the author of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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**HISTORICAL FICTION****Author feels instant connection with subject**

Emily Laurence
Metro in New York

Three years after Paula McLain's first book *The Paris Wife*, a historical fiction about Ernest Hemingway's wife became a New York Times best-seller, the author is back with another historical fiction book, *Circling the Sun*, this time about Beryl Markham, a glamorous British expat living in 1920s Kenya, who had no shortage of adventures.

First spark

"I had a million ideas about who to write about next, but for me, there has to be a mysterious, powerful, profound connection," McLain tells us.

"I felt that instantly with Beryl when I read her memoir *West With The Night*."

McLain had never heard of Markham, but she says the con-

nection was immediate. "All the hairs on my arm just stood up and I thought, I don't know who this woman is, but I am going to write about her. That's it. It's done."

Unexpected connection

She discovered they had amazing connections, such as the fact their mothers had both abandoned them at the age of four and re-entered their lives when they were 20.

McLain says once she realized their common connections, the

architecture of the book came together quickly.

"Gossip followed Beryl her whole life. It's like, who didn't she sleep with? ...

"I was compelled to psychoanalyze her based on some of my own psychology because we had this piece of the story."

Trailblazer

Markham was indeed interesting, becoming the first woman licensed to be a professional racehorse trainer and the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic from East to West.

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Trading horror for extremism

DIFFERENT TYPE OF MONSTER

Nick Cutter's new novel is a nightmare of a religious tale

BOOKWORM

Sue Carter



When horror writer Nick Cutter (a.k.a. Craig Davidson) wrote the first draft of his new novel, *The Acolyte*, it was a very different time both politically and socially. It was post-9/11, and George W. Bush was winding down his eight-year U.S. presidential term, drawing to a close an era marked

with a religious fervour that made Cutter fearful.

"It's not a warm and fuzzy, cuddly piece of writing," he says. "I got really obsessed with two close bedfellows between state and religion. I had nightmares about it."

Those bad dreams translated into *The Acolyte*, a taut dystopian thriller about a cop named Jonah Murtag, tasked with eliminating unauthorized religious faiths in New Bethlehem, a world where the Old Testament rules, and cities fall under the leadership of "Prophets." After witnessing a suicide bomber blast the local Prophet's daughter on stage at a concert, Murtag begins to realize that not all is as it seems.

Cutter estimates that his first manuscript clocked in at a hefty 180,000 words. During intensive editing with his publisher, Toronto's ChiZine Publications, he cut large chunks of the story, in part because of its "moralizing" tenor. "I don't share those sentiments with the same vociferousness that I used to," Cutter says. "I guess as I've discovered as the years have gone by that a really virulent Christian right-winger or an atheist both get on my nerves. On either

side you get to a point where no one is listening to you, and you get shrill."

Although *The Acolyte* was written well before Cutter became a Canadian horror favourite, fans will recognize the signature violence and quick-witted dialogue of his previous two published books — *The Troop*, the Stephen King-praised novel in which camping boy scouts meet up with a grotesque kill-

er tapeworm, and *The Deep*, a claustrophobic mind-trip set in an underwater science station — grounded by personal, human emotions.

"The way I write horror is that you isolate a few fears that you feel quite profoundly about, and the goal is to try to translate that fear to your readers," Cutter says. "You have to find the fear inside your own heart and put that on the page."

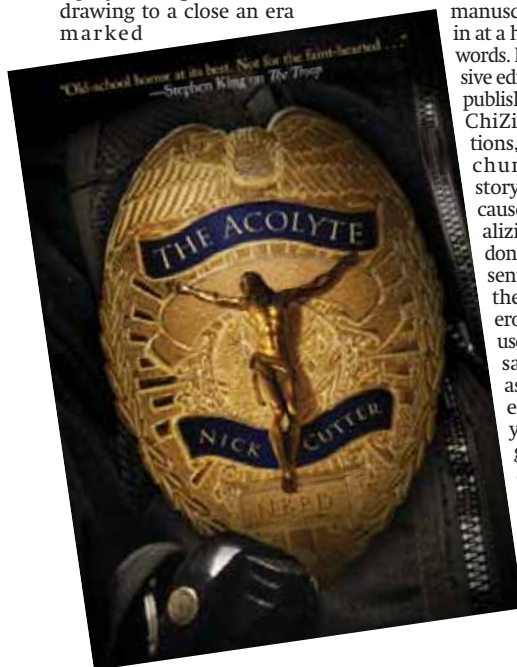
While Cutter's monsters are not for the squeamish or faint of heart, they exist in a fantasy, whereas the religious extremism and dogma in *The Acolyte* at times seems a little too close to the evening news.

So, did he ever worry about writing about religion — a touchy subject at the best of times?

"I never worried too much about the idea of going too far,

which in the end can be your Achilles heel as a writer, in that you never know when to break and pull back and approach things less recklessly," he says. "But I did write an afterword for the book. I don't know if it's maturity, but as I get older, I don't want to hurt people's feelings or insult their beliefs."

Sue Carter is editor at Quill & Quire magazine.



LITERARY PRIZE

Jamaican first for Booker longlist

The Man Booker Prize for the best fiction novel revealed its longlist on Wednesday.

Entries must be written originally in English and published in the U.K., although 2015 marks the second year in the contest's 45-year history that it has been open to writers of any nationality. The shortlist will be announced Sept. 15, while the winner will be revealed Oct. 13.

The list, chosen from 156 entries and announced Wednesday, includes *A Brief History of Seven Killings* by Marlon James, the first Jamaica-born Booker contender.

Novels by Americans Anne Tyler and Marilynne Robinson are among 13 contenders.

Also selected are Ireland's Anne Enright for *The Green Road*, British writer Andrew O'Hagan's *The Illuminations*, the U.K.'s Tom McCarthy for *Satin Island* and Sunjeev Sahota, also of the U.K., for *The Year of the Runaways*.

Five American novels are on the list: Tyler's *A Spool of Blue Thread*, Robinson's *Lila*, Bill Clegg's *Did You Ever Have a Family*, Laila Lalami's *The Moor's Account* and Hanya Yanagihara's *A Little Life*.

Also on the longlist: *Sleeping on Jupiter* by India's Anuradha Roy, *The Chimes* by New Zealand writer Anna Smaill, and *The Fishermen* by Nigerian Chigozie Obioma. AFP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Women share what's written on the body

SOCIAL MEDIA

#Thighreading the latest body-positive selfie trend

If you've got lines on your thighs that would never in a million years see the light of Instagram then it's time to reassess, because "#thighreading" is the latest beauty statement to hit social media.

The hashtag was started on Twitter earlier this month by student @princess_labia, who shared a photo of the stretch marks gracing her thighs with her 10,000 followers.

The accompanying caption "palm readings <<<< thigh readings" struck a chord with the Internet and the hashtag #thighreading had soon made the transition to Instagram.

"There are so many faces and body types and features that girls never get to see reflected back at them," the student told Elite Daily.

"Girls have tweeted back at me that they had no idea so many women have stretch marks, and that's so sad, right?"

"Something that is as normal, common and beautiful as stretch marks is something we've been taught to be ashamed of, to be alone with."

The body-positive trend has



Women have taken to Twitter to share images of their thighs in the latest body positive trend.

@MISS_LONDON_/INSTAGRAM

seen Instagram users such as @miss_london posting pictures of their stretch marks or other 'imperfections' alongside inspiring hashtags such as #storyofmybody, #confidence and #stillbeautiful. One user @bethoney posted the message: "I have cellulite and stretch marks but that doesn't mean I'm not 'normal' or beautiful!" while @cassidyarkes captioned her photo "Big thighs save lives."

Thigh reading is the latest

social media campaign to focus on positive body image for women this year. It follows the success this spring of the Instagram account @Loveyourlines, launched to promote "real women, real bodies and real self love" and comes after various celebrities got real about their imperfections, with supermodel Chrissy Teigen posting one memorable shot of her legs captioned: "Stretchies say hi!"

AFP

“Something that is as normal, common and beautiful as stretch marks is something we’ve been taught to be ashamed of, to be alone with”
@princess_labia

BIRKIN BAGS

Take my name off that croc, Birkin demands

British singer Jane Birkin has asked Hermes to take her name off the crocodile-skin versions of the iconic Birkin handbag, after being contacted by animal rights group PETA over "cruel" slaughtering practices.

A PETA video from June shows several reptiles at a Texas farm that supplies crocodile skins to Hermes left twitching in a bloody ice container to die after being shot with a captive bolt gun and cut with a knife.

Birkin said in a statement obtained Wednesday that she was "alerted to the cruel practices ... to make Hermes handbags carrying my name" and has "asked Hermes to de-baptize the Birkin Croco until better practices in line with international norms can be put in place."

The Birkin bag was created in 1984 by Hermes in honour of the famed singer and ex-girlfriend of Serge Gainsbourg, and is, still today, one of the world's most exclusive luxury items. The bag is beloved by stars such

as Victoria Beckham and comes in calf, ostrich, lizard as well as crocodile. It can cost between \$10,000 and \$100,000, with waiting lists to buy famously stretching into the years.

No publicly listed phone number for Lone Star Alligator Farms in Winnie, Texas, could immediately be located Wednesday.

Contacted by The Associated Press, Hermes said it "respects and shares (Birkin's) emotions" and was "shocked by

the images recently broadcast."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



IN BRIEF

Opioid deaths on the rise, experts say

Addiction experts say reduced prescribing of oxycodone has helped cut overdose deaths from the potent narcotic, but other opioids are increasingly taking its place.

Researchers at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto say prescriptions for drugs like hydromorphone and fentanyl patches have risen since

2010 when measures to curb oxycodone use were put in place. Yet lead researcher Benedikt Fischer says that despite a reduction in overall prescribing, deaths from opioid overdoses in Ontario continue to rise. Oxycodone-related deaths had dropped by 30 per cent in 2013, but the number of deaths from opioids overall jumped 24 per cent between 2010 and 2013 — from 467 to 577.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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AWKWARD

Hammer didn't know he was nude



Armie Hammer

The joys of young parenthood can sometimes cloud your judgment, as *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* star Armie Hammer learned.

"I found out today that I have nude pictures on my phone," he tells Jimmy Kimmel. The revelation came after discussing his 8-month-old daughter with a hairstylist. "The lady said, 'Do you have any pictures of your daughter?' I said, 'Of course! I've got tons of pictures!'" he explains. "I'm going through my phone ... and I get to pictures where ... she's kind of lounging on the sink and she looks like she's having the time of her life. I'm showing her these pictures and I'm like, 'Look at how cute she is! We're in the bathroom. She's just right in the bathtub.' And after showing her these pictures for about 30 seconds I realize that I'm standing fully nude in the mirror of this bathroom as I'm showing her these pictures. As quickly and casually as possible, I went, 'Anyway, you get the picture!'" NED EHRBAR/FOR METRO

Affleck denies dating the nanny



According to *US Weekly*, Ben Affleck is dating his kids' nanny. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

RELATIONSHIPS

Who doesn't love a good divorce cliché? Garner, for one



Ned Ehrbar

Here's a classic: Ben Affleck is reportedly following up his split from Jennifer Garner by shacking up with ... his kids' nanny, Christine Ouzounian, according to *US*

Weekly.

Come on, Ben. That's just tacky. Have you learned nothing from *Jude Law*?

Anyway, Ouzounian stared working for Affleck and Garner during the couple's alleged secret 10-month trial separation, and sparks just kind of started flying. As they do. "They would hang out without the kids, and they were very flirty," a source says. "She says Ben really, really likes her. She's saying this is true love." Of course she is.

Because a grumpy movie star just out of a 10-year marriage is what relationship stability is made of.

Garner, as you might imagine, was not so pleased when

she reportedly found out about their extracurricular dealings and promptly fired the Arizona State University grad.

But spell-check defier Ouzounian has still been in text and email contact with Affleck and even spent some time at his newly minted L.A. bachelor pad earlier this month. So there.

Affleck, for his part, is having none of this nanny-dating story.

His rep tells *E!* News that the "story is not true. It's tabloid journalism hiding behind blind sources. It's a shameful ploy to stay relevant for the magazine. We are considering legal options." Oh snap.

+ BERRY ON THE BRINK, TATUM'S GAMBIT

Is Halle Berry's marriage on the rocks?

The latest contestant on *Hollywood Wedding Ring* watch is apparently Halle Berry, who is getting attention this week for showing up for some child-minding duties sans gold band.

And sorrowful sources tell *Radar Online* that the omission was no mere oversight.

"It seems Halle and (husband) Olivier (Martinez) have finally hit the end of the road," a source says.

NED EHRBAR/ FOR METRO



Channing Tatum looking to get out of *Gambit*

There's potential trouble in superhero land, as Channing Tatum is reportedly eyeing a swift exit from Fox's stand-alone film *Gambit*, about the fan-favourite Cajun mutant, according to the *Wrap*.

Tatum's reps are said to be in active discussions with the studio, but "something is up." Tatum is also involved with the project as a producer, and it's unclear if he'll stay on in that capacity should he bow out of starring.

The film is set to be released in October 2016, and Tatum appeared earlier this month at Comic-Con to hype it.

NED EHRBAR/ FOR METRO

BEEF

Drake slugs Meek Mill with diss track, Joe Carter pic

Touch 'em all, Drake.

The Toronto rapper invoked beloved ex-Blue Jays slugger Joe Carter with his latest shot in his ongoing feud with rapper Meek Mill. The Grammy winner issued *Back to Back* overnight, accompanied by a photo of Carter's triumphant trot following his World Series-winning walk-off home run in 1993. Of course, Toronto's opponent that year was Philadelphia — Mill's home town. After *Charged Up*, it's Drake's second lyrical response to Mill, who alleged on Twitter recently that Drake doesn't write his own rhymes. On *Back to Back*, the 28-year-old Drake takes several shots at Mill's relationship to rap titan Nicki Minaj, a long-time cohort of Drake's whom Mill is cur-



Drake

rently supporting on tour.

"You love her, then you gotta give the world to her," Drake raps. "Is that a world tour or your girl's tour?" Minaj performed in Toronto on Tuesday and allowed Mill to make a cameo appearance during her headlining set. Several fan-shot videos depict Mill being heartily booed by the partisan Toronto crowd.

Posted early Wednesday morning, Drake's freestyle seems to reference the fresh incident.

"I mean, whoa, can't fool the city man, they know what's up."

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What they're asking

Want to invest in the condo market? Check out this selection of new builds and pre-construction one-bedroom condominiums. If you're willing to wait a while, buying from plans can save you a bundle.

Duncan McAllister FOR METRO



\$255,000

Calgary

Built by the Qualex-Landmark Group, Park Point's 34-storey, mixed-use residential tower features 289 suites and overlooks historic Central Memorial Park, one of Canada's oldest urban parks. Located in the heart of Calgary's Beltline, Park Point will host nearly 9,000 sq. ft. of owner-accessible building amenities atop the tower podium. Residents will enjoy panoramic views of the city and the park, in Calgary's rapidly evolving urban city centre. For more information contact 403-244-2428 or visit qualex.ca.



\$233,900

Winnipeg

Phase 1 of Oxbow of Tuxedo Point is a new, multi-unit condo development now under construction on the Sterling Lyon Parkway. \$233,900 is the starting price for a one-bedroom suite, with occupancy slated for late fall 2015. The suites offer engineered hardwood floors, granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. The development by Towers Realty Group and Pre-Con Builders is situated between a retail shopping complex and the greenery of Assiniboine Forest Park. For more information contact 204-255-8436 or visit oxbowcondos.com.



\$299,900

Halifax

Seapoint is the first landmark condominium at the 22-acre Harbour Isle Waterfront Village. It's currently in pre-construction in Dartmouth, and boasts stylish suites, inspired architecture and active lifestyle amenities. The units will feature large balconies with views of the harbour, the city skyline and the Dartmouth Yacht Club next door. The Bridgewater suite is 940 sq. ft. with a 158-sq.-ft. balcony, available on floors six through 16. Visit gettheseapoint.com for more details.



\$264,000

Toronto

Here's a 482-sq.-ft., one-bedroom suite at Islington Terrace by Tridel, currently in pre-construction in the historic Islington Village neighbourhood. The transit-friendly community offers quick access to the Islington subway station and Mississauga Transit terminal. The building is located close to shopping and restaurants along the Kingsway on Bloor. There's 50,000 sq. ft. of amenity space including a fitness centre, indoor pool and outdoor terrace. For more information call 416-645-8862, or email islingtonterrace@tridel.com.



\$374,000

Ottawa

Cathedral Hill by Windmill Developments is currently under construction on the western edge of downtown. Featured is the one-bedroom Corus suite at 743 sq. ft. The condo promises exceptional views of the Ottawa River, Gati-neau Park, Parliament Hill and Sparks Street. The full range of lifestyle amenities includes an executive concierge. This sustainable development is targeting LEED gold standard, and offers the convenience of downtown living within natural green surroundings. Contact Chantal Smith at 613-566-7010 for more information.



\$329,900

Vancouver

Kensington Gardens is a new master-planned community by Vancouver developer Westbank. The featured price is for a 568-sq.-ft., one-bedroom condo suite. Each unit features open balconies or terraces. Kensington Gardens is an integrated urban community comprising three unique residential towers, a collection of townhouses and a residential podium, linked by an elevated landscaped courtyard. The development boasts five-star, hotel-quality amenities. Call 604-620-7886 or visit kensingtongardens.ca for more information.



\$310,000

Edmonton

Link condos at Ellerslie is a new, eight-storey midrise building by Regency Developments in the MacEwan neighbourhood of South Edmonton. The concrete and steel structure has 105 suites, and the underground parkade is now under construction to be completed in late 2016. There's plenty of greenery and landscaping. All balconies have natural gas hookups and there's a full rooftop patio. The development is close to amenities with quick access to the rest of the city. For more information, contact 780-497-1700 or visit linkellerslie.ca.

Throw them some shade this season

It's finally arrived — the summer heat is upon us and as much as we like to complain about it, I think most of us are secretly happy we've got some summer sun. With it comes the responsibility to protect our skin, so here are a few helpful shade sources.

DESIGN CENTRE

Karl Lohnes



1

1 ShelterLogic Sun Shade Sail

Create your own shade system from trees, flagpoles and balconies. Heavy-weight 16-ft. square in lime, \$108, Walmart.ca

2

2 Outdoor Window Sheer Curtains

Keep the sun off the porch; Velcro tabs make it easy to take them down and wash. \$20, Lowes.ca

3

3 Balinese Umbrella

Create a royal affair under the sun. \$350, Pier1.com

4

4 Auto-Lift Round Solar-Powered Umbrella

Opens and closes without the need of a crank while boasting solar lights; both controlled by a remote. Nine feet wide, \$200, CanadianTire.ca

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6

6 Bayside Octagon Panelized 12' Gazebo

Got room? Create your own shaded outdoor dining room ... or perhaps a performance stage. \$5,900, HomeDepot.ca

ADVICE

Holmes on home-buying IQ

Mike Holmes, famous for calling out bad plumbing, carpentry and electrical work on the HGTV show *Holmes on Homes*, says there are steps homebuyers can take to avoid many of those problems.

Holmes has a new show on Fox called *Home Free*, a competition reality show in which nine couples are challenged each week to restore a run-down home in Atlanta.

They must live on the job site and follow Holmes' no-nonsense instruction. Couples whose work isn't up to code are gradually eliminated, and the last remaining couple wins a home.

Here, Holmes offers some advice for people looking to buy a home:

What's the biggest mistake people make when looking to buy a home?

We buy based on illusion. We don't buy with intelligence. We trust a real estate agent that we don't even know. More than anything, we buy by what we see. "Oh my God, it's got new paint. Look at the curb appeal." I'm trying to impress on people that you need to do as much homework as possible.



Professional contractor Mike Holmes has a new show called *Home Free* airing Wednesdays on Fox. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Take me through a typical scenario of someone buying a home.

Take a couple we'll call Mary and Joe. They decide to buy a house and they get excited, so all of a sudden their emotions change. Mary and Joe start looking on the Internet, they start driving around and picking a property, and then they look for a real estate agent. And when they pick the house they want, then they start looking for a home inspector.

If you plan on buying a property, you should look for a real estate agent first. Find the best real estate agent on the market. Before you start look-

ing at a house, find the best home inspector there is.

How do you find the right real estate agent or home inspector?

Ask, "How long have you been in the business? What areas have you worked in? How many houses have you sold?" In other words, you start by asking a ton of questions, and you want answers. "Do you have a list of references?" Call the references.... To a home inspector, ask, "How long have you been in the business? Did you do construction before you did inspection?"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Take the celebration outside

SUMMER FUN

Rain or shine, throw your best backyard bash yet

Andrea Janus
For Metro

An outdoor party is a great way to bring together family and friends during the precious few hazy days of summer.

After you've set a budget and a guest list, create the setting, experts say. Treat your outdoor space as you would an indoor room.

Define zones for lounging and eating with area rugs

to "tells guests where they should be doing these activities," says Melissa Davis, principal at Melissa Davis Designs. Waterproof rugs will withstand the weather, foot traffic and spills.

Whether you set a formal dining table or offer food buffet-style, put out cutlery, and a range of flatware and glasses so guests can eat with

ease. To avoid broken glass in the backyard, the dollar store carries a range of dishes and utensils that look like the real thing but are, in fact, plastic.

For an evening affair, create lounge areas with some round or square poufs, candles and throw blankets, says Catherine-Lucie Horber, principal of Royal Interior Designs Ltd. and a some-time party planner.

"It's inviting, it's cozy, it's romantic," Horber says. "You want to have a party that people will talk about and remember."

Your guests will thank you if you add an outdoor heater on a chilly night, and mosquito-zapping lanterns or candles to keep bugs at bay.

Lighting is also key for any nighttime event. Strings of lights with round bulbs can look festive without looking

Christmas-y, and spotlights are great for illuminating far corners of a backyard "so your guests aren't staring out at an abyss," Davis says.

For a daytime party, offer seating options in both the sun and the shade. If you don't have a retractable awning, an umbrella that can be tilted as the sun moves can be put anywhere around the yard.

Meanwhile, when considering your menu, go with lighter fare that will "cool you down a little bit," like a watermelon feta salad and Caprese salad skewers, advises Candice Sinclair, owner of A Sinclair Affair event planning in Toronto. Easy-to-carry options include mini grilled-cheese sandwiches and sliders.

For Canada Day, pick up some strawberry meringue tarts or strawberries dipped

in white chocolate, while kids can enjoy sandwiches made using maple leaf-shaped cookie cutters, Sinclair says.

A bar cart can serve as a one-stop shop for drinks.

And last but not least: make sure you have a back-up plan in case of inclement weather.

If rain appears in the forecast, Horber recommends moving some furniture from your house into the garage or basement and moving the bash indoors.

If you've got a bigger budget, a tent is always an option, though an expensive one. A tent rental can run from \$800 to \$6,000, says Sinclair.

On a particularly hot day you'll need air conditioning, and if it's going to rain, Sinclair says flooring for the tent is a must so guests' feet don't get soaked.

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IN BRIEF

Stackhouse among new Raptors assistant coaches

The Toronto Raptors have hired assistants Jerry Stackhouse, Rex Kalamian and Andy Greer to round out Dwayne Casey's coaching staff.

It's the first NBA coaching position for Stack-



Jerry Stackhouse

GETTY IMAGES

house, who played 18 years in the NBA and was an all-star with Detroit in 2000 and 2001.

Stackhouse averaged 16.9 points, 3.3 assists and 3.2 rebounds in 970 career regular-season games (564 starts). He helped Dallas reach the NBA Finals in 2006 and played under Casey in the Mavericks' 2008-09 season, when the Toronto head coach was an assistant on Rick Carlisle's staff.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Miller joins Timberwolves

Andre Miller's agent tells The Associated Press his client has agreed to terms with the Minnesota Timberwolves.

The Wolves hosted the 39-year-old point guard for a visit to the team's facility on Wednesday. A few hours later, he reached an agreement, agent Andy Miller says. Terms of the deal were not immediately available. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada lets rugby win against Samoa slip away

Samoa scored a last-second try to hand Canada a crushing 21-20 defeat in the Pacific Nations Cup rugby tournament Wednesday.

Canada had seemed destined for victory after Phil Mackenzie's slashing run for a try in the 75th minute lifted the home side to a 20-16 lead.

But after Canada stole a Samoan lineup on the Canadian goal-line with the clock running down, two Canadians collided and the ball spilled loose, only for Samoa's Sakaria Taulafo to dive on it for the winning try. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Blue Jays shortstop Troy Tulowitzki hits a two-run home run against the Phillies on Wednesday night in Toronto. DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tulowitzki displays the goods in Blue Jays debut

MLB

Shortstop fuels Toronto offence with homer, 3 RBIs

All it took for Troy Tulowitzki to get comfortable in his new uniform was a home run.

The newly acquired Blue Jays shortstop impressed in his debut, hitting a home run with three runs batted in as Toronto beat the Philadelphia Phillies 8-2 on Wednesday night.

Tulowitzki said after the game that he was nervous play-

ing in his first Blue Jays game since being traded from the Colorado Rockies on Tuesday but finding his swing helped calm his nerves.

"I think they were trying to go with a high fastball but didn't quite get it up there," said Tulowitzki of the 0-2 pitch he crushed in the third inning. "I put a good swing on it. That was huge for me to get it under my belt and I think I relaxed after that and took better swings."

Tulowitzki hit two doubles after the home run and led Toronto's (51-51) offence, which exploded for a total of 16 hits. Every batter in the Blue Jays' starting lineup had at least one

WEDNESDAY In Toronto

8	2
BLUE JAYS	PHILLIES

hit, with five players earning two hits and Tulowitzki getting three.

"Hey, some guys do things with style, y'know?" said manager John Gibbons on Tulowitzki's debut. "I don't think it could've gone any better, really. He made a nice play defensively early then had two doubles and a homer."

"Some guys have a knack." Tulowitzki and reliever LaTroy Hawkins were sent to the Blue Jays on Tuesday in a deal with Colorado for shortstop Jose Reyes, reliever Miguel Castro and minor-league pitchers Jeff Hoffman and Jesus Tinoco.

Hawkins pitched in Tuesday night's 3-2 loss to the Phillies, but Tulowitzki needed a day to resettle his family before arriving in Toronto early Wednesday afternoon.

Although he was obviously pleased with his individual performance, Tulowitzki was happier that Toronto ended a small two-game skid.

"As long as we win, I could care less how I'm playing," said Tulowitzki.

Knuckleballer R.A. Dickey (5-10) gave up two runs and struck out four over eight innings to earn the win. Bo Schultz pitched a scoreless inning of relief to close out the game for the Blue Jays.

First baseman Edwin Encarnacion was scratched from the Blue Jays lineup a little over an hour before the game with a jammed middle finger on his left hand. X-rays came back

+ FRESH START

In his Rockies debut, Jose Reyes was 1-for-3 with a



Jose Reyes
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

walk and a stolen base. The four-time all-star batted second and singled in his first at-bat for Colorado. The Chicago

Cubs won the game 3-2.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

negative.

Second baseman Devon Travis also sat out for Toronto with irritation in his left shoulder.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



I think that's what you play this game for, to win. I think there's a great possibility here that that could happen and very soon.

Troy Tulowitzki



Patriots owner Robert Kraft
GETTY IMAGES

NFL

Pats back Brady appeal

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady vowed to fight his four-game suspension on Wednesday, and team owner Robert Kraft opened training camp by saying he continues to "believe and unequivocally support" the three-time Super Bowl MVP.

"I was wrong to put my faith in the league," Kraft said.

Taking the podium a day after NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell upheld Brady's four-game suspension, Kraft angrily targeted the league for its handling of the case.

"The decision handed down by the league yesterday is unfathomable to me," he said. "I have come to the conclusion that this was never about doing what was fair and just."

Brady was suspended four games and the team was docked \$1 million and two draft picks after the league determined that the team provided improperly inflated footballs in the AFC championship game against the Indianapolis Colts. Investigator Ted Wells zeroed in on two equipment managers — one who called himself "The Deflator" — and said Brady was "at least generally aware" of the illegal deflation scheme.

The team has denied wrongdoing, but it fired the two equipment managers whose text messages included discussions of football inflation.

Kraft said he expected Brady's suspension to be reduced on appeal, and repeated the team's claim that the league failed to prove its case.

Brady broke his silence in a 507-word Facebook post earlier Wednesday in which he denied destroying his cellphone to keep it out of the hands of investigators.

"To suggest that I destroyed a phone to avoid giving the NFL information it requested is completely wrong," the three-time Super Bowl MVP said. "There is no 'smoking gun' and this controversy is manufactured to distract from the fact they have zero evidence of wrongdoing."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Little white lie sparked long para-sports career

PARAPAN 2015

Wheelchair basketballer first wanted to swim

Since it implies something underhanded, it would be misleading to say Tracey Ferguson was tricked into playing wheelchair basketball. Any deception was out of compassion.

But Ferguson, now 40 and a mainstay on the national women's team for 24 years, wanted to be a swimmer when her mother called Variety Village searching for a place where her preteen daughter could emulate her hero, Alex Baumann.

"My daughter is new to a wheelchair," Ferguson recalls her mother, Patricia Boudreau, explaining on the phone. "She swam before paralysis and she wants to be a swimmer. The gentleman there said, 'C'mon down and see what we have.'"

BACKGROUND

Into the chair

Ferguson, the youngest of six children, was paralyzed during a surgical procedure when she was 9. She had scoliosis and when doctors at Sick Kids Hospital were implanting steel rods to straighten her spine, the procedure left her without movement from the waist down.

She has regained some function over time and can walk short distances.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Tracey Ferguson dribbles past Janet McLachlan during a presentation in Toronto in March.

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

He failed to mention that they hadn't built a pool yet."

Ferguson, almost 12 at the time, excitedly arrived to see the facilities.

"We got down there and they threw me in a basketball chair, they threw me in a racing chair and I played some tennis. Finally I said, 'And the pool?' And the guy was like, 'We're going to build one. But we didn't want to turn you away. We didn't want to say no.'"

Her mother, meanwhile, saw how much fun Tracey was having and signed her up for a membership. Boudreau was then floored when her daughter said she wanted to play basket-

Once I found out about wheelchair sports, my world opened up again.

Tracey Ferguson

ball. She asked Tracey if she'd actually made a basket during her test run.

"Not even close," the youngster responded beaming. "Didn't even hit the bottom of the mesh."

Ferguson admits she was "horrible" but she believed she could get better. Three Paralympic gold medals and a bronze with Canada along with four world championships and a bronze at that level proved her right.

But Ferguson was also attracted to the fact she could play with her friends. She couldn't play basketball standing up with them but all her pals from Reesor Park Public School in Markham could come down to Variety Village, sit in a wheelchair and play basketball with her.

"We could play like we played before my injury," she said.

Ferguson, just five feet tall and 46 pounds, recalls she was lighter than her 50-pound

"clunker" of a wheelchair that could have held two of her. But life changed when she got into a sports chair for the first time at Variety Village.

"It felt like running again," she said. "Once I found out about wheelchair sports, my world opened up again."

Ferguson, who calls herself "exceptionally old," has played for Canada so long she went through one 12-year stretch of being undefeated internationally and then through a rebuilding phase that has the team back on top as reigning world champs as it goes into the Parapan Games in Toronto. Ferguson is the only player remaining from the Paralympic champion teams in 1992, 1996 and 2000.

"When I stop being an asset to the team, it will be time for me to go," says Ferguson but she is training with hopes of playing in the Paralympics at Rio in 2016. The Parapan Am Games here are a qualifier for Rio. Canada finished sixth at the London Paralympic Games in 2012.

While Ferguson now lives in Germany where she plays professional wheelchair basketball — "they cover your costs but you're not getting rich" — her siblings and parents, in Holland Landing, remain in the Toronto area.

She sees playing in these Games as a way to thank them.

"They were the ones that launched my career and now I have an opportunity to play at one of the biggest sporting events in the world in my hometown and to put on a show for them," she says. "I can say, what you did back then allowed me to realize my dreams and I want to really show them how great Team Canada is."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FIFA

Blatter's protege aims to succeed him as head

Michel Platini has launched his campaign to succeed Sepp Blatter as FIFA president, aiming to give the scandal-hit governing body "the dignity and the position it deserves."

Platini, the UEFA president and a FIFA vice-president, wrote to member federations in Europe on Wednesday that he will stand in the election and counts on their support.

The former France great is the first serious contender to declare his intentions ahead

of an Oct. 26 deadline to apply. The FIFA election is on Feb. 26.

"There are times in life when you have to take your destiny into your own hands," wrote Platini, who turned 60 last month. "I am at one of those decisive moments, at a juncture in my life and in events that are shaping the future of FIFA."

Platini has for years been the obvious candidate to succeed Blatter, his mentor in FIFA politics.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Rookie to stand in for injured Kevin Glenn

Rookie Brett Smith will make his first CFL start Friday night when the Saskatchewan Roughriders visit the Edmonton Eskimos.

A league source requesting anonymity said Smith will replace veteran Kevin Glenn, who suffered a shoulder injury in the second half of the Riders' 31-21 home loss to the Hamilton Tiger-Cats on Sunday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Gillette Stadium to host Winter Classic

The Winter Classic is coming to the home of the New England Patriots.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman joined officials from the Boston Bruins and Montreal Canadiens on Wednesday to say the Original Six rivals would meet at Gillette Stadium on New Year's Day. The Bruins will be the first team to host the event twice. They also hosted it in 2010, at Fenway Park.

Patriots owner Robert Kraft

also spoke at the ceremony, just hours after his impassioned "Deflategate" defence.

Bettman notes that the three organizations are among the most successful in their sports, with 34 championships. The Canadiens have won 24 of those, but the Patriots are the defending Super Bowl champs.

Bettman also says the league has extended the game's title sponsorship with Bridgestone for another five years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIPE Grilled Zucchini, Tomato and Buffalo Mozzarella Stacks



EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com

Twitter: @rosereisman

Ready in

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 10 minutes

Ingredients

- 6 round slices zucchini (1-inch thick)
- 6 slices medium-sized red tomatoes (1/2-inch thick)
- 3 oz buffalo mozzarella cheese or smooth ricotta
- 6 slices medium-sized yellow tomatoes (1/2-inch thick)
- Balsamic glaze
- 1/3 cup balsamic vinegar
- 2 Tbsp maple syrup
- Chopped fresh basil

Directions

1. In a grill pan sprayed with vegetable oil, grill zucchini rounds, around four minutes per side,

just until slightly tender.

2. On large serving platter, place red tomato slices in a single row. Divide half of cheese over top tomatoes. Top with yellow tomato slices and divide remaining cheese over top. Add zucchini rounds.

3. In small skillet, add balsamic vinegar and maple syrup. Bring to a boil and cook for one to two minutes, just until bubbles cover entire surface. Drizzle over top tomato stacks and garnish with basil. If glaze gets too thick, gently reheat and add a little more maple syrup.

Nutrition per serving (makes 6 stacks)

- Calories 70
- Protein 4 g
- Carbohydrates 6 g
- Total fat 1.5 g
- Cholesterol 5 g
- Sodium 100 mg

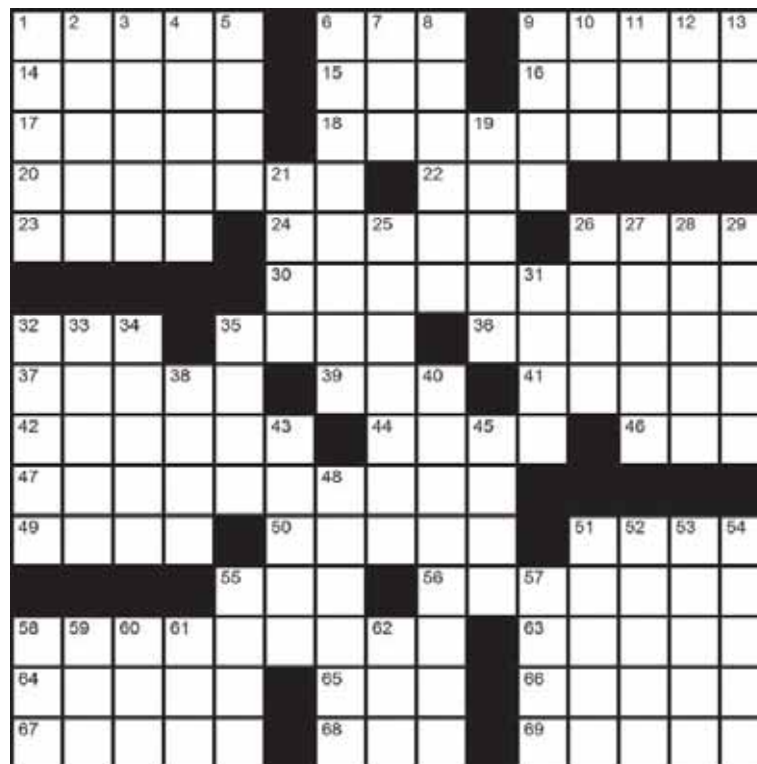
PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Bird of Jove
6. "This Hour Has 22 Minutes" network
9. Gladden
14. Pasted
15. Diminutive suffix
16. Mr. Firth
17. Succulent plant
18. Break in the workday
20. "The ___ Code" (2006) starring Tom Hanks
22. ___-mo replay
23. Navigated waters
24. Arise
26. Regrettably
30. As per #6-Down, locale in the Yukon: 2 wds.
32. '60s hit: "___ My Party"
35. Dry
36. Religious lecture
37. Update a route
39. Not nope
41. Existence
42. Appearances
44. Lids
46. Kicker's peg
47. Coniferous tree delicacies: 2 wds.
49. Dwelling
50. Regards
51. ___ of St. Lawrence
55. Neutral shoe tone
56. Item in an eater's hand
58. Spanish author of Don Quixote



63. Scoundrel
64. Signifi-
65. Record co.
66. Astound
67. Picture
68. Grumpy's

- co-worker
69. Thaws

DOWN

1. "Zounds!"
2. Pool nuisance
3. Tropical fruit
4. Mr. Strauss'

- jeans
5. "I Dream of Jean-
6. July 30th to August 2nd, 2015: Yukon ___ Festival (Regional food celebration in Whitehorse

- and #30-Across)
7. ___-ray player
8. Population count
9. Canyon lingerer
10. Movie studio area

11. Canadian journalist Mr. Velshi
12. Mr. Burton the director
13. Compass pt.
19. Namesakes of jazz singer Ms. Laine
21. Relinquish control
25. Honeybunch
26. Land amount
27. Speed ___
28. Repent
29. Abbey Theatre dramatist, J.M. ___ (b.1871 - d.1909)
31. Bird beaks
32. Bar soap brand, ___ Spring
33. Song's swiftness
34. Phoney well-wishery
35. On ___ (Without a contract)
38. Chill
40. Billboard chart fare: 2 wds.
43. Certain car
45. "Excuse me..."
48. Like a traveling circus venue
51. Garden guy
52. Regular
53. Hungarian composer, Franz ___ (b.1811 - d.1886)
54. Escapes
55. Root vegetable
57. "Rio Lobo" (1970) actor Jack
58. Police officer
59. Ordinal suffix
60. Greek alphabet's 17th letter
61. Verify
62. Goth rocker

* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Be careful how you react to criticism today. If you let your enemies see that your feelings are hurt they will go out of their way to hurt you further. Pretend that you are not the slightest bit bothered.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You find it hard to be modest, but today you would be wise not to draw attention to your superiority because there is something you have missed that could make you look very silly.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
The best way to get over your negative mood is to throw yourself into an activity that you enjoy. It doesn't have to be important, just something that takes your mind off your worries.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You want to speak your mind today, but be warned: you could be the one who is the topic of conversation if you stray from the facts. What others say won't be pleasant.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
This is not a good time to say or do anything that might meet the disapproval of people in power. Yes, there are facts that need to be looked at but don't make a big deal of it.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you tread on someone's toes today the consequences could be painful for both of you! Minor differences could escalate quite rapidly into major disputes, so steer clear of people who offend easily.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
The most important thing now is that you act as if you care, even if you don't. Others are counting on you to raise their spirits and if you are as nice a person as they say you are you will tell them what they need to hear.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You are never afraid to be controversial but today there is a danger that you will go too far and make an enemy of someone powerful. You may be brave, but ask yourself: is it worth the hassle?

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Don't neglect the needs of those you love in your haste to make a name for yourself on the work front. You could all too easily turn people against you.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If you help someone today they will repay the favour later, when you are the one in need. In a nutshell: be kind to others and they will more likely be kind to you.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The time has come to end some kind of partnership. It won't be easy but you know it must be done. In the long-term it will be good for you both.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You must be honest with yourself about what you want and what you have to do to get it. And if you come to the conclusion that the price is too high then lower your sights and aim for something less demanding.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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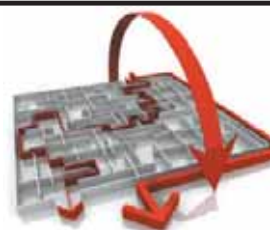
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